

WELL COMPENSATION GRANT PROGRAM

Authorization: s. 281.75, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 123, Wis. Admin. Code

Budget: 2005-2007 Fiscal Year = \$400,000

Objective: To provide financial assistance to replace, reconstruct or treat contaminated private water supplies.

Eligibility: Owner of a contaminated private water supply that serves a residence or is used for water for livestock. Contamination must be other than bacteria as determined by DNR health advisory issued due to the contaminated well. The eligible cost amounts for these projects are set by DNR funding tables found in ch. NR 123, Wis. Admin. Code. Well construction work must be done according to DNR specifications and the contaminated well must be properly abandoned and filled before payment will be made.

The following costs are not eligible for reimbursement through this grant program:

- ◆ Wells serving commercial establishments.
- ◆ Private wells that do not meet the contamination criteria established
- ◆ Annual family income is more than \$65,000.
- ◆ Costs for any work done before claim is filed and approved by the DNR.

Level of Assistance: 75% of allowable costs, but not more than \$9,000. The amount of the grant is reduced by \$.30 for each \$1.00 of the applicant's annual family income over \$45,000.

Priorities: Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds are exhausted.

Eligible Types of Projects: The well compensation grant program provides partial cost sharing for the following projects:

- ◆ Water testing if it shows that the well is contaminated;
- ◆ Reconstructing a contaminated well;
- ◆ Constructing a new well;
- ◆ Connecting to an existing private or public water supply;
- ◆ Installing a new pump, including the associated piping;
- ◆ Properly abandoning the contaminated well;
- ◆ Equipment for water treatment (if no other option is feasible);
- ◆ Providing a temporary bottled or trucked water supply

Applications: Available from the **DNR Region Water Supply Specialist.**

If you suspect that your well is contaminated, the first thing you should do is call your DNR Region Office Water Supply Specialist. The DNR Water Supply Specialist can help you determine the nature of your water problem, possible solutions, whether or not you are eligible for a well compensation grant and if so supply you with the application claim forms.

To apply for a grant you must meet the eligibility criteria and fill out the application claim forms provided to you by the DNR Region Water Supply Specialist. Your claim must include information about your existing well and the contamination problems as well as a description and cost estimate of the most feasible solution to solve the problem. Possible alternatives include reconstructing your existing well, constructing a new well or connecting to a nearby contaminant-free water supply. If none of these alternatives are feasible, you might be allowed to install state-approved water treatment equipment. Your claim must also include a copy of your Wisconsin state income tax return for the previous year to show that you are income eligible.

The Department of Natural Resources is required by the Internal Revenue Service to send a 1099G for tax filing purposes as a result of payment for a "Well Compensation Grant Award Program Claim." It is the department's understanding that "awards to individuals" is considered "other income." If the "Well Compensation Grant Award Claimant" is concerned with how the receipt of the grant award might affect their standing to receive food stamps, Medicare, or other such services or programs, you may wish to check with a representative of that program, social worker or other such person. Additional information regarding income tax issues can be obtained at www.irs.gov or the IRS hotline # 1-800-829-1040.

History: Since January 1, 1985, the State of Wisconsin has been fortunate to have a program that can help owners of contaminated private water supplies. This program, called "Well Compensation", was established by the Comprehensive Groundwater Bill of 1984. It was designed by the Wisconsin Legislature to provide replacement water supplies to help assure access to water free of toxic chemicals, regardless of fault.

Contact: The **DNR Region Office Water Supply Specialist** in your area for **eligibility determination and completion of the application claim.**

The DNR Region office main phone numbers are as follows:

Northern Region:	(715) 635-2101
West Central Region:	(715) 839-3700
South Central Region:	(608) 275-3267
Northeast Region:	(920) 662-5100
Southeast Region:	(414) 263-8500

Program Managers:

Barbara Ingram, CF/8
(Grant Manager – grant award, amendments, and payment of award)
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Phone: (608) 267-7152
E-mail: Barbara.Ingram@dnr.state.wi.us

Tom Riewe, DG/2
(Water Supply Program Manager – Technical Information)
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Phone: (608) 266-8697
Email: Thomas.Riewe@dnr.state.wi.us

Website: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/wellcomp.htm>